

**CITY OF DANA POINT
PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

November 1, 2010
6:00 – 6:42 p.m.

City Hall Offices
Council Chamber (#210)
33282 Golden Lantern
Dana Point, CA 92629

CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Conway called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Commissioner Denton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Liz Claus, Chairman Ed Conway, Commissioner Norman Denton, Commissioner Gary Newkirk, and Vice-Chairwoman April O'Connor

Staff Present: Kyle Butterwick (Director), John Tilton (City Architect/Planning Manager), Todd Litfin (Assistant City Attorney), and Denise Jacobo (Planning Secretary)

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ITEM 1: Minutes of the regular Planning Commission Meeting of October 18, 2010.

ACTION: Motion made (Claus) and seconded (Denton) to approve the Minutes of the regular Planning Commission Meeting of October 18, 2010. Motion carried 5-0. (AYES: Claus, Conway, Denton, Newkirk, O'Connor NOES: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None)

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no Public Comments.

C. CONSENT CALENDAR

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ITEM 2: Administrative Coastal Development Permit CDP10-0009(A) to permit the demolition of an existing, single-family residence, and; the construction of a new, single-story, single-family residence at 32661 Sea Island Drive.

Applicant: Steve Davidson
Owner: John Michael Allen
Location(s): 32661 Sea Island Drive (APN 670-033-01)

Request: To permit the demolition of an existing, single-family residence and; the construction of a new, single-story, single-family residence.

Environmental: Pursuant to the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Community Development Department has analyzed the subject project. Staff finds the project is Categorically Exempt per Section 15303 (a) (Class 3 – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures).

Recommendation: That the Planning Commission affirms the Director of Community Development's approval of Administrative Coastal Development Permit CDP10-0009(A).

ACTION: Motion made (O'Connor) and seconded (Claus) to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion carried 5-0. (AYES: Claus, Conway, Denton, Newkirk, O'Connor NOES: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None)

D. PUBLIC HEARINGS

ITEM 3: Proposed water fountain/public art at the La Plaza Park for Planning Commission's consideration.

Applicant/Owner: City of Dana Point
Location(s): The proposed water fountain/public art will be located at the La Plaza Park, in the City's Town Center Plan area.

Request: Approval of the proposed water fountain/public art for La Plaza Park.

Environmental: The subject project qualifies for Section 15303 (e) (Class 3 – New Construction or Conversion of Existing Facilities) Categorical Exemption from the provisions set forth in the California Environmental Quality Act.

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Recommendation: That the Planning Commission adopt the attached Draft Resolution recommending the approval of the proposed water fountain/public art project to the City Council.

John Tilton (City Architect/Planning Manager) acknowledged that a bequest from Mary Allen Thomas has resulted in this proposal for La Plaza Park. He noted that the project team worked closely with staff and indicated that the designer and the artist were present to discuss details of the artwork.

Chairman Conway opened the Public Hearing.

Yvonne English (Dana Point – Landscape Architect) delivered a Powerpoint presentation on the concept of the water fountain and distributed an example of the materials to be used.

Karen Schnell (Dana Point) addressed her work with Mr. Bill Johnson on compiling information about Mary Allen Thomas and her involvement in the arts and cultural plan of the City in the 1990's. She also mentioned that Ms. Thomas would be commemorated with a plaque.

Clarence "Lance" Jost (Dana Point – Artist) was present to discuss the project details on the coastal themed artwork. He mentioned that he also designed a portion of the artwork at the Dana Point Bridge.

Chairman Conway closed the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Newkirk stated that the fountain is a great addition because it highlights Dana Point and its surf heritage as a cornerstone of the City.

Commissioner Claus noted that La Plaza Park is an important part of the City because of every public event that begins and ends there. She stated that she likes the elegant design of the park and thinks that the fountain looks disproportionate to the park itself. It does not appear to fit into the park-like, quiet elegance that the park has. She added that she is fond of the artists' work but does not feel it fits well into La Plaza Park.

Vice-Chairwoman O'Connor stated that she liked the fountain and is always in favor of beautifying the City and making it pedestrian-friendly. She added that she is happy to see a female surfer incorporated in the artwork because a segment of the City meets that criteria. She is in favor of the project.

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Commissioner Denton stated that Ms. English and Mr. Jost did a great job in coming up with something that does not overwhelm what may be considered a small park. He added that would be a great meeting place. He is all for and has been in favor of art in public places and is proud of the job done at the bridge. He stated that the fountain is the right element to what the park is missing and expressed gratitude to Ms. Mary Ellen Thomas for her generous contribution.

Chairman Conway stated that he had the privilege of knowing Ms. Mary Ellen Thomas for twenty-five years. He added that she was very involved in the arts and history of the area. He stated that Ms. Thomas would be happy to have this as a remembrance and he would be in favor of the project.

ACTION: Motion made (O'Connor) and seconded (Conway) to approve Resolution No. 10-11-01-18 recommending City Council approval of the water fountain/public art project for the La Plaza Park. Motion carried 4-1. (AYES: Conway, Denton, Newkirk, O'Connor NOES: Claus ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None)

E. NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business.

F. STAFF REPORTS

Kyle Butterwick (Director) announced the following:

- The Coastal Commission has approved the Land Use Plan portion of the Harbor Plan. He added that staff has received a commitment for the Implementation Plan (development standards) to be on the Coastal Commission agenda in January.
- The release of the Town Center public improvement draft EIR could be available this month.
- Congratulations are in order for Todd Litfin on the birth of his baby daughter.

Todd Litfin (Assistant City Attorney) briefed the Commissioners on the issues regarding a case being heard before the California Supreme Court.

John Tilton (City Architect/Planning Manager) reported that a portion of Pacific Coast Highway is closed in Capistrano Beach due to a localized bluff top failure on Doheny Place. As a notice of caution, the road has been closed. The

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Director has authorized emergency work on the top of the bluff to stabilize the property and allow the City to reopen Pacific Coast Highway. Work is still ongoing; ultimately the owners will be coming to the Planning Commission to obtain a Coastal Development Permit for the work to stabilize the bluff.

G. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Claus encouraged everyone to vote early and often on Election Day.

Chairman Conway congratulated Todd Litfin on the birth of his baby.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Conway announced that the *next regular* meeting of the Planning Commission will be held on Monday, November 15, 2010, beginning at 6:00 p.m. (or as soon thereafter) in the Council Chamber located at 33282 Golden Lantern, Suite 210, Dana Point, California.

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Ed Conway, Chairman
Planning Commission